

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03618 090653 Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PRS-01 INR-10 SS-15 RSC-01 RSR-01 /043 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8222

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3618

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, KS

SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF ROK CULTURAL AND INFORMATION ATTACHE

REF: STATE 110445

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG SIK RAISED LEE
JAE HYON RESIGNATION WITH ME AND ASKED IF IT WAS
GOING TO CREATE MUCH REACTION IN THE U. S. I SAID
THE STORY WAS RUNNING AND THAT SOME OF ITS OVERTONES
WERE SEXY ENOUGH FOR THE PRESS TO MAINTAIN ITS
INTEREST. I TOLD HIM THE MATTER OF ADJUSTMENT OF
STATUS WOULD BE HANDLED IN ROUTINE FASHION THROUGH
INS. HE ASKED IF POLITICAL ASYLUM WAS
INVOLVED AND I REPLIED IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THE
ONLY THING THAT WAS INVOLVED WAS ADJUSTMENT OF
VISA STATUS.

2. AT THIS POINT I SAID I WANTED TO SPEAK VERY
FRANKLY WITH HIM ABOUT REPORTS WE HAVE HAD ON
INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF ROK CIA IN THE
UNITED STATES. THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE KNOWN ITS VIEWS
IN THIS REGARD AT THIS EMBASSY A NUMBER OF TIMES.
SPECIFICALLY, WE KNEW THAT ROK CIA HAD ENGAGED IN
INTIMIDATION OF KOREAN RESIDENTS AND ATTEMPTED TO
INTERFERE IN MEETING OF KOREAN RESIDENTS. SUCH
ACTIVITIES WERE NOT ONLY IMPROPER, BUT, IN MY VIEW,
UNNECESSARY, SUCH OVERZEALOUSNESS ON THE PART OF ROK
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CIA AGENTS IN THE UNITED STATES NEEDED TO BE CURBED
AND I HOPED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD MAKE MY VIEWS
KNOWN AS APPROPRIATE WITHIN ROKG. WE COULD NOT
CONCEAL THESE MATTERS, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT LEE
JAE HYON WOULD CERTAINLY BE AWARE OF THEM AND HAS
SPOKEN TO THE PRESS. WE WERE NOT GOING TO DENY
FACTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER LISTENED, NODDED, AND DID
NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO ANYTHING.
HABIB

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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